This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for controlling at least one computing element with a universal console ~~(UC)~~, comprising:

receiving input from a user indicative of at least one user preference ~~for a universal console~~, <u>wherein said at least one user preference defines at least one generalized rule</u> <u>characterizing one of the group consisting of a visual, an aural, and a tactile mode of</u> <u>communication</u>;

storing the at least one user preference;

selecting a computing element to control with the universal console;

receiving by the universal console a canonical user interface ~~(UI)~~ <u>description</u> representative of the computing element's user interface, wherein the canonical user interface <u>description</u> ~~is pre-defined for the computing element and~~ includes at least one action-command operable to control said computing element;

instantiating a user interface ~~description by the universal console~~<u>, said user interface</u> <u>providing at least one prompt for said user to select said at least one action-command, wherein</u> <u>said at least one prompt is provided in accordance with said</u> ~~as a function of the~~ stored at least one user preference and the canonical user interface <u>description</u>;

selecting at least one action-command to be carried out by the computing element <u>using</u> <u>said user interface</u>; and

transmitting to the computing element data associated with said at least one action-command using a remote procedure call mechanism.

2.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting at least one action-command includes requesting information about the state of said at least one computing element.

3.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising interacting with at least one group hierarchy to obtain data in connection with said selected at least one action-command to be carried out by the computing element.

4.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said storing includes storing data indicating at least one disability of the user.

5.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, further including carrying out said action-command by said computing element.

6.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, further including receiving by the UC notifications from the computing element.

7.   (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein said notifications include at least one of an error message, warning message, status update message and state change.

8.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation is formatted according to an XML stream.

9.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, further including requesting a list of available devices that may be controlled by UC.

10.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein communications between said UC and said computing element are made via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP).

11.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said computing element is one from the group of a computing device and an application.

12.   (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said remote procedure call mechanism makes calls according to Simple Object Activation Protocol (SOAP).

13.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for choosing one element *a* from a set A.

14.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting a subset *A'* from a set A.

15.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting one from the group of True/False, Off/On, OK/Cancel and Yes/No.

16.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting an integer *n* in the range n_1 through n_2, with increment δ.

17.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting a real number x in the range x1 through x2, with increment δ.

18.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter type for an arbitrary string s.

19.   (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein said arbitrary string s is to be selected from a suggestion set of strings S.

20.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter type for the modification of a given first string *s*, resulting in a second string *s'*.

21.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter type for ordering the elements of set *A* into *A'*.

22.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter type for pairing set *A* elements with set *B* elements.

23.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a group construct that contains at least one of commands and subgroups.

24.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a command construct that specifies at least one action to send to the controlled element that will carry out the action-command.

25.   (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a description of the parameters associated with the at least one action.

26-41. (Canceled)

42.   (Currently amended) A computer system comprising at least one universal console ~~(UC)~~ and at least one computing element, operable to allow a user to control said at least one computing element, said system comprising:

at least one computing element having a ~~pre-defined~~ canonical user interface <u>description</u> ~~(UI)~~ associated therewith, wherein said canonical user interface includes at least one action-command operable to control said computing element;

a universal console for controlling said at least one computing element and operable to store user preferences input to the computer system by the user<u>, wherein said user preferences define at least one generalized rule characterizing one of the group consisting of a visual, an aural and a tactile mode of communication</u>;

wherein said at least one computing element communicates its associated canonical user interface <u>description</u> to said universal console;

wherein said universal console instantiates a [[a]] user interface ~~description~~ as a function of said canonical user interface <u>description</u> and said stored user preferences; and

wherein, thereafter, said universal console is operable to control said computing element via said user interface description by user-selection of said at least one action-command.

43.   (Previously presented) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said user selection includes requesting information about the state of said at least one computing element.

44.   (Previously presented) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said UC is operable to enable a user to interact with at least one group hierarchy to obtain data in connection with said selected at least one action-command to be carried out by the computing element.

45.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said storage of user preferences includes the storage of data indicating at least one disability of the user.

46.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said at least one computing element carries out said at least one action-command.

47.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said UC receives notifications from the at least one computing element.

48.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 47, wherein said notifications include at least one of an error message, warning message, status update message and state change.

49.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description is formatted according to an XML stream.

50.   (Previously presented) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said user-selection includes requesting a list of available devices that may be controlled by UC.

51.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein communications between said UC and said computing element are made via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP).

52.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said computing element is one from the group of a computing device and an application.

53.   (Previously presented) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said remote procedure call mechanism makes calls according to Simple Object Activation Protocol (SOAP).

54.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for choosing one element a from a set A.

55.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for selecting a subset A' from a set A.

56.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for selecting one from the group of True/False, Off/On, OK/Cancel and Yes/No.

57.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for selecting an integer n in the range n_1 through n_2, with increment δ.

58.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for selecting a real number x in the range x1 through x2, with increment δ.

59.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter type for an arbitrary string s.

60.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 59, wherein said arbitrary string s is to be selected from a suggestion set of strings S.

61.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter type for the modification of a given first string s, resulting in a second string s'.

62.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter type for ordering the elements of set A into A'.

63.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter type for pairing set A elements with set B elements.

64.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a group construct that contains at least one of commands and subgroups.

65.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a command construct that specifies at least one action to send to the controlled element that will carry out the action-command.

66.   (Original) A computer system according to claim 65, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description of the parameters associated with the at least one action.

67.   (Currently amended) A computer readable <u>storage</u> medium comprising computer executable instructions for controlling at least one computing element with a universal console (~~UC~~), comprising:

means for receiving input from a user indicative of at least one user preference ~~for a universal console~~, wherein said at least one user preference defines at least one generalized rule characterizing one of the group consisting of a visual, an aural and a tactile mode of communication;

means for storing the at least one user preference;

means for selecting a computing element to control with the universal console;

means for receiving by the universal console a canonical user interface ~~(UI)~~ description representative of the computing element's user interface, wherein the canonical user interface description ~~is pre-defined for the computing element and~~ includes at least one action-command operable to control said computing element;

means for instantiating a user interface ~~description by the universal console as a function of~~, said user interface providing at least one prompt for said user to select said at least one action-command, wherein said at least one prompt is provided in accordance with the canonical user interface description and the stored at least one user preference;

means for selecting at least one action-command to be carried out by the computing element using said user interface; and

means for transmitting to the computing element data associated with said at least one action-command.